

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A surgical clip comprising:

a pair of ~~laterally curved~~ legs, each leg having ~~[[an]]~~ a generally planar inner surface and an outer surface, each leg being laterally curved in the plane of its inner surface, and each leg having a shape that is generally a mirror image of the shape of the other leg;

a flexible articulation joining the pair of legs at one end, the legs being movable about the flexible articulation from an open position to a closed position, the inner surfaces of the legs being parallel and in contact with one another when the clip is in the closed position; and

a locking mechanism at a second end of the pair of legs for securing the legs together in the closed position,

the clip being adapted to be applied to an anatomical structure to at least partially occlude the structure. ~~such that when in the closed position the clip either partially or fully occludes the structure depending upon the angle at which the clip is applied to the structure.~~

6. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 5 wherein the locking mechanism comprises a pin located at the free end of one leg and an orifice located at the free end of the other leg, the pin being adapted to snap fit under pressure into the orifice.

7. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 5 wherein each leg includes a plurality of teeth on its inner surface.

8. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 7 wherein the teeth are generally transversely oriented on each leg.

9. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 7 wherein the teeth are longitudinally oriented on each leg.

10. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 5 wherein the clip is formed of metal.

11. (Previously presentedly) The surgical clip of claim 5 wherein the clip is formed of polymer material.

12. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 5 wherein the flexible articulation is integral with the legs.

13. (Currently amended) A surgical clip comprising:
a pair of ~~laterally arcuate~~ legs, each leg having ~~[[an]]~~ a generally planar inner surface and an outer surface, each leg being laterally curved in the plane of its inner surface, and each leg having a shape that is generally a mirror image of the shape of the other leg;

a flexible articulation joining the pair of legs at one end, the legs being movable about the flexible articulation from an open position to a closed position, the inner surfaces of the legs being parallel and in contact with one another when the clip is in the closed position; and

a locking mechanism at a second end of the pair of legs for securing the legs together in the closed position;

wherein one leg includes a longitudinal ridge on its inner surface and the other leg includes a longitudinal recess on its inner surface, the ridge being adapted to fit within the recess when the clip is in the closed position,

the clip being adapted to be applied to an anatomical structure~~[[.]]~~ to at least partially occlude the structure. ~~such that when in the closed position the clip either partially or fully occludes the structure depending upon the angle at which the clip is applied to the structure.~~

14. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 13 wherein the locking mechanism comprises a pin located at a central portion of the free end of one leg and an orifice located on a central portion of the free end of the other leg, the pin being adapted to snap fit under pressure into the orifice.

15. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 13 wherein the flexible articulation is integral with the legs.

16. (Currently amended) A surgical clip for occluding a blood vessel, comprising:

a pair of ~~laterally curved~~ legs, each leg having ~~[[an]]~~ a generally planar inner surface and an outer surface, each leg being laterally curved in the plane of its inner surface, the inner surfaces of the legs being parallel and in contact with one another when the clip is in a closed position, one leg having at least one protrusion on its inner surface and the other leg having at least one recess on its inner surface, the protrusion and recess being adapted to fit together when the clip is in a closed position;

a flexible articulation joining the pair of legs at one end; and

a locking mechanism at a free end of the pair of legs for holding the legs together in a closed position,

the lateral curvature of the legs defining an apex portion of the legs which extends laterally beyond the lateral extents of the flexible articulation and the locking mechanism, and

the clip being adapted to be applied to the vessel to at least partially occlude the vessel. ~~such that when in the closed position the clip either partially or fully occludes the vessel depending upon the angle at which the clip is applied to the vessel.~~

17. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 16 wherein the locking mechanism comprises a pin located at a central portion of the free end of one leg and an orifice located on a central portion of the free end of the other leg, the pin being adapted to snap fit under pressure into the orifice.

18. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 16 wherein the flexible articulation is integral with the legs.

19. (Previously presented) A metal surgical clip comprising:
a pair of ~~laterally curved~~ legs, each leg having ~~[[an]]~~ a generally planar inner surface and an outer surface, each leg being laterally curved in the plane of its inner surface; and

a flexible articulation joining the pair of legs at one end;
wherein the clip has an open position and a closed position, the clip being lockable in the closed position by deformation of the clip from the open position by applying sufficient force to press the inner surfaces of the legs together.

20. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 19 wherein each leg includes a plurality of teeth on its inner surface.

21. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 20 wherein the teeth are transversely oriented on the inner surface of each leg.

22. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 20 wherein the teeth are longitudinally oriented on the inner surface of each leg.

23. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 19 wherein the flexible articulation is integral with the legs.

24. (Previously presented) The surgical clip of claim 19 wherein one leg includes a longitudinal ridge on its inner surface and the other leg includes a longitudinal recess on its inner surface, the ridge being adapted to fit within the recess when the clip is in the closed position.

25. (New) The surgical clip of claim 5, wherein
the clip is adapted to be applied to an anatomical structure in a first alternative orientation along a generally straight side of the anatomical structure longer than the

distance between the flexible articulation and the locking mechanism, such that a portion of the anatomical structure narrower than a width of the anatomical structure, adjacent the generally straight side, may be clamped between the inner surfaces of the legs in the closed position to partially occlude the anatomical structure, while the flexible articulation and locking mechanism are spaced away from the generally straight side, and

the clip is adapted to be applied in a fully occluding orientation to an anatomical structure in a second alternative orientation across a width of the anatomical structure shorter than the distance between the flexible articulation and the locking mechanism, such that a portion of the anatomical structure extending across the width of the anatomical structure may be clamped between the inner surfaces of the legs in the closed position to fully occlude the anatomical structure, while the flexible articulation and locking mechanism are spaced away from the anatomical structure at opposite sides of the anatomical structure.

26. (New) The surgical clip of claim 13, wherein

the clip is adapted to be applied to an anatomical structure in a first alternative orientation along a generally straight side of the anatomical structure such that when in the closed position the clip partially occludes the structure and the flexible articulation and locking mechanism are spaced away from the generally straight side, and

the clip is adapted to be applied to an anatomical structure in a second alternative orientation across a width of the anatomical structure such that when in the closed position the clip fully occludes the structure and the flexible articulation and locking mechanism are spaced away from opposite sides of the structure.

27. (New) The surgical clip of claim 16, wherein

the clip is adapted to be applied to the vessel along a generally straight side of the vessel such that when in the closed position the apex portion of the clip partially occludes the vessel, and

the clip being adapted to be applied to the vessel across a width of the vessel such that when in the closed position the clip fully occludes the vessel.

28. (New) The surgical clip of claim 19, wherein

the clip is adapted to be applied to an anatomical structure in a first alternative orientation along a generally straight side of the anatomical structure such that when in the closed position the clip partially occludes the structure and the flexible articulation and locking mechanism are spaced away from the generally straight side, and

the clip is adapted to be applied to an anatomical structure in a second alternative orientation across a width of the anatomical structure such that when in the closed position the clip fully occludes the structure and the flexible articulation and locking mechanism are spaced away from opposite sides of the structure.